Air Monitoring Plans Taking Shape

EPA has made substantial progress on the offsite air monitoring program to be conducted before, during, and after construction of the isolation barrier. The offsite air monitoring program is an important component of the pre-construction activities, and will complement the ongoing on-site air monitoring being conducted by the potentially responsible parties. EPA Region 7 will operate the off-site air monitors.

Over the past few weeks, EPA has arranged for placement of the air monitoring stations at the following locations: Robertson Fire Protection District on Taussig Road, Bridgeton, Mo.; Pattonville Fire Department Administration Building on St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, Mo.; Pattonville Fire Department #2 on McKelvey Road, Hazelwood, Mo.; St. Charles Fire Department #2 on South Main Street, St. Charles, Mo.; and the Spanish Village Park on Spanish Village Drive, Bridgeton, Mo. In addition, an EPA office trailer will be set up at the Robertson Fire Protection District.

The off-site air monitoring will include particulate matter, including sampling for alpha, beta, and gamma radiation and related constituents, and volatile organic compounds. EPA expects the offsite air monitoring network to be operational by mid May. The on-site and off-site air monitoring will provide a robust air monitoring network to ensure that work on the isolation barrier does not pose a threat to those living in the areas around the landfill.

EPA Supports Local Emergency Planning Efforts

EPA Region 7 is supporting St. Louis County Emergency Management in its contingency planning efforts. St. Louis County is preparing an Incident Action Plan in order to be prepared for potential emergency situations that could arise at or near the West Lake Landfill Site.

St. Louis County, and other local community authorities, plan to visit sensitive facilities (daycares, schools, hospitals, elder-care facilities, etc.) within a 2-mile radius of the landfill to communicate the Incident Action Plan and advise each facility to prepare their own facility-specific plans. The St. Louis County plan will be shared with St. Charles County which is expected to conduct a similar effort. St. Louis County said they would establish a point-of-contact for inquiries that may result from the facility outreach. EPA will post the plan on the West Lake webpage as soon as we receive the final plan from the county.

EPA has supported this planning effort since March 2014 by participating in bi-weekly planning calls, reviewing and commenting on draft plans, and providing a fact sheet to the county on EPA's response assets as well as those EPA can access from other federal agencies and special teams through the National Response System. The fact sheet can be found on EPA's West Lake webpage at (INSERT LINK).

EPA's Emergency Response Program and Radiological Response Capabilities

EPA operates a nation-wide emergency response program in order to respond to releases of oil and hazardous substances resulting from spills, accidents, or natural disasters. EPA's Emergency Response Program has provided critical support for some of the country's most devastating spills and natural disasters, including the 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, Hurricane Katrina, and the Joplin tornado.

As part of its Emergency Response capabilities, EPA maintains expertise and equipment for radiological

events and disasters. In particular, EPA operates the Radiological Emergency Response Team based in Las Vegas, Nevada, and EPA maintains radiological response capabilities in all ten EPA regions. These assets can be called into action when needed anywhere in the country. For more information about EPA's response capabilities, visit our website at (INSERT LINK).

Subsurface Smoldering Event Update

As part of our due diligence in managing the West Lake Landfill Site, EPA regularly reviews data associated with the subsurface smoldering event (SSE) at the Bridgeton Landfill. Most recently, EPA has reviewed data collected in January 2014. While the data indicates increasing temperatures in some locations within the Bridgeton Landfill, there is no indication of rapid movement or migration of the SSE. The SSE appears to be stable and remains in areas previously identified. EPA will continue to evaluate the data in order to monitor the SSE over time.